

Honorable Judge Cole,

I'm writing this letter because I'm trying to give you the perspective into the person that I am and understanding that if given opportunity I will be an asset to society and positive influence to my community.

Almost 4 years of my life I spent in "Butler County Jail" I will try to give you some insight into conditions of my confinement.

For last 46 months I never had a visit from my family because it was very expensive to come over here from South Florida for just 30 min. non contact video visit. It was very hard to see other inmates get visit every weekend, smile and happy to see their families.

Since I have been here I have not been outside. I have spent between 19-21 hours a day in my cell everyday. Lights in my cell was on for 24 hours.

Being in jail has given me time to reflect on my decisions that I made. It has been a huge lesson for me already. I see now that I can refocus my vision on my life and doing positive things for society.

My incarceration has given me insight into lives of the less fortunate people. I realized that if given me the opportunity I can help them.

In spite of the lack of programs that have been offered to me, I've used this time to work on my rehabilitation and self improvement. While incarcerated I have significantly improved my English, in addition I learned Spanish, also I'm working on my MBA degree.

Since Covid 19 happened, I voluntarily became a Covid 19 worker. I helped clean and sanitize common areas and did everything in my power to assure that no one else was infected despite that fact that we were not provided Personal Protective Equipment for the first few months.

All my life I wanted to be a good person. I was raised this way by my mom. She always told me that I have to be a good example not only for my kids but for everyone who is around me. I think that's why I chose to fight for the human rights back in Russia against Putin's regime. But unfortunately in 2012 when Putin came to the power 3rd time I was forced to flee the country.

I will try to explain circumstances that brought me here. First of all I'm not trying to justify my actions. I made mistakes and wrong decisions. I admit I want to say, that it was my first experience to open business ever, and I approached everything with good intentions. I was really excited to be a part of this venture and help people. I never even thought about hurting anybody. I feel devastated because of people that I have let down. Not only customers, society, but also my parents, my wife, my kids, my friends and myself.

I implore You to show leniency and mercy on person, who made mistakes and regrets about it every day of my life.

Please give me the opportunity to return to society. I will do everything in my power to prove to everybody that this second chance is justified and You were accurate in this decision. I'm worth it.

Thank You.
Respectfully,
Andrey Shuklin